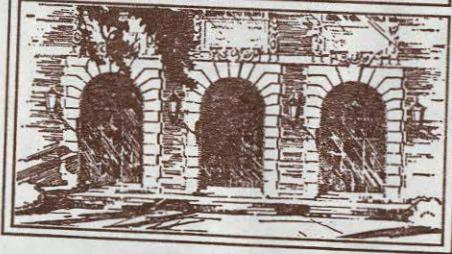




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EGYPTIAN TREASURES *from the* EGYPTIAN MUSEUM *in* CAIRO

Edited by

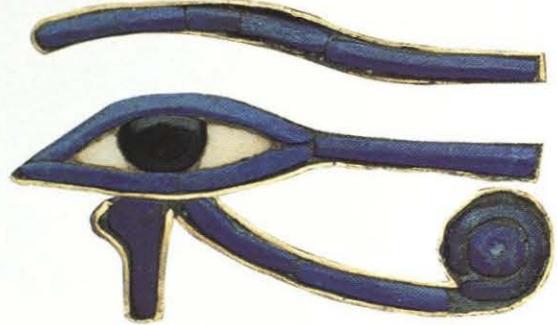
Francesco Tiradritti

Photographs by

Araldo De Luca

Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

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It is now more than 160 years since ancient Egyptian artifacts were first exhibited in Cairo, and almost 100 years since the opening to the public of the present Egyptian Museum on Tahrir Square in the heart of the city. This book is therefore a celebration of the long and distinguished history of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, and of the scholars who pioneered the science of Egyptology and gave people in modern times the opportunity to wonder at the art and civilization of the ancient Egyptians.

Even more significant, of course, than the achievements of the past two centuries is the art that is contained in the Museum and the history of the people who created it. The Egyptian Museum contains some 150,000 artifacts produced over a period of more than 5,000 years, including great masterpieces such as the objects found in the tomb of Tutankhamun, images of which are now etched into the consciousness of millions of people across the globe.

It is therefore fitting that these two remarkable achievements should be jointly celebrated in the magnificent book you now hold in your hands. Turning through its pages has given me immense pleasure and awakened in me once again a sense of awe and wonder at the glory and the humanity of the people who lived in the land of Egypt all those thousands of years ago. It is my hope and conviction that others will be similarly moved, and will gain from these pages a vivid and inspiring impression of our marvellous history.

The legacy of ancient Egypt is not, however, the possession of modern Egypt alone, but is a gift to the whole world. The civilization that developed on the banks of the Nile has touched every nation on earth in various ways. It is particularly pleasing, therefore, that distinguished Egyptologists have contributed to this book, so that in addition to sections by Egyptian scholars there are chapters from authors in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. This is a reflection not only of the fascination that ancient Egypt continues to exert across the world, but also of the invaluable contribution the international community has made to its rediscovery and to our growing understanding of its civilization. Between them, these renowned scholars have given us within these pages an overview of the entire span of ancient Egyptian history, from Predynastic times through the monumental splendours of the Old Kingdom, the 'golden age' of the Middle Kingdom, the iconoclastic experimentation of the Amarna period, and the imperial militarism of the New Kingdom, to the Late Period and finally the syncretism of the Ptolemaic and Roman eras. In addition, there is also a chapter on the history of the Museum itself, and detailed descriptions of the hundreds of artifacts that are so beautifully illustrated in this book.

The achievements of the ancient Egyptians are an inspiration to us who still live today on the land they first tilled – on the banks of the Nile that gave them life seven millennia ago. As we approach the new millennium, there is much we can still learn from them and much to wonder at. It is my hope that this superb book will inspire all those who read it, and encourage them, if they have not yet done so, to visit the Museum itself and see for themselves the fabulous treasures it contains.

H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak

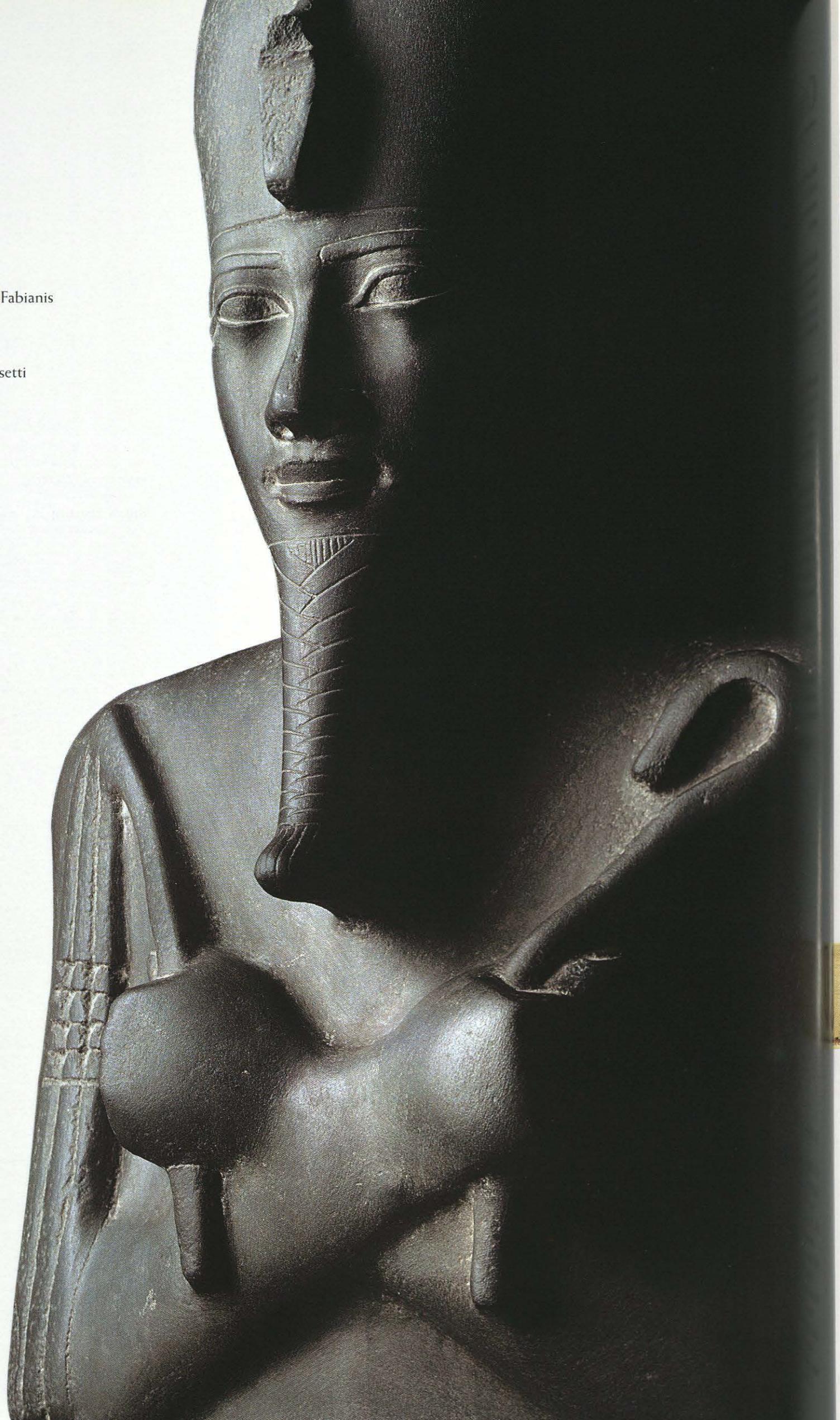
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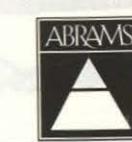
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- *Page 162*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 31382; Eighteenth Dynasty, Early Reign of Amenhotep IV–Akhenaten
- *Page 163*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 164*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 165*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 166*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 167*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
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- *Page 169*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 170*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 171*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 172*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
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- *Page 175*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
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- *Page 177*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 178*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 179*: Head of Akhenaten; JE 44866; Eighteenth Dynasty, Reign of Akhenaten
- *Page 180*: Head of Akhenaten; JE

THE NUMBERING OF THE OBJECTS AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

THE NUMBERING OF OBJECTS

the numbering of objects as they enter the Museum is today a continuation of the system initiated by Mariette in his personal *Inventaire du Musée de Boulak*, the original manuscript of which is kept in the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris.

The *Inventaire* was subsequently copied and used as the museum's official Register of Acceptance (*Journal d'Entrée*). There are currently twenty-four volumes of the *Journal d'Entrée*, in which around ninety-nine thousand

ies are recorded (more than one object may correspond to a single entry number). The *Journal d'Entrée* numbers are usually painted in black on the objects and may in certain cases be preceded by the abbreviation

The numbers corresponding to publication of the objects in the general catalogue (*Catalogue Général*) of the Museum (see below) are generally printed in red on the objects and in certain cases are preceded by the abbreviation CG.

L. Borchardt, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire Nos 1809–2000: Foundation Deposits, Models and Tools.
CG 4741–4797
 G.A. Reisner, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire Nos 4741–4797: Tel el-Amarna Tablets.
CG 6030–6294
 E. Chassinat, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire Nos 6030–6294: La seconde trouvaille de Deir el-Bahari II.
CG 16001–16330 = CG 1809–2

CG 17101–17120

Ch. Kuentz, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 17101–17120: Pyramidions. CG 18794–18815

F. W. von Bissing, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 18794–18815: Tongefässer II.

CG 20781–20830

J.J. Clère, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 20781–20830: Stèles funéraires et votives du Moyen Empire.

CG 26350–26665

C.C. Edgar, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 26350–26665: Terracotta Lamps. CG 26666–27424, 32801–32970

C.C. Edgar, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 26666–27424, 32801–32970: Terracotta Statuettes.

CG 28127–28300

P. Lacau, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 28001–28126: Sarcophages antérieurs au Nouvel Empire III.

CG 29324–29365

H. Gauthier, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 29324–29365: Sarcophages anthropomorphiques des Époques persane et ptolémaïque.

CG 32801–32970 =

CG 26666–27424

CG 32971–33000, 43228–44000

Pedrizet, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 32971–33000, 43228–44000: Terres cuites.

CG 34190–35000

P. Lacau, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 34190–35000: Stèles du Nouvel Empire. IV.

CG 43228–44000 =

CG 32971–33000

CG 42251–43226

G. Legrain (then Ch. Kuentz), Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 42251–43226: Statues et statuettes des rois et des particuliers. Tome V–VI.

CG 44701–45252

G. Bénédite, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 44301–44638: Objets de toilette. Tome II.

CG 50201–50299

Kaplony-Heckel, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 50201–50299: Denkmäler des Alten Holztafeln.

CG 54001–54310

A. Moret (then Ch. Kuentz), Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 54001–54310: Linteaux de portes et montants.

CG 57050–58000

Dia Abou-Ghazi, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 57050–58000: Denkmäler des Alten Reichen III.

CG 58037–58091

W. Golenischeff, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 58037–58091: Papyrus hiératiques. Tome II.

CG 68001–68197

G. Bénédite, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 68001–68197: Jeux.

CG 69001–69099

G. Bénédite, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 69001–69099: Matériel du scribe et du peintre.

The rapid transfer of the monuments from the site at Giza to the present location at Midan el-Tahrir was not without its problems, and many objects lost their JE number. This

situation convinced the museum staff that there was a need to provide a new numbering system for the objects that lacked any information that could be identified through the sketchy descriptions in the *Journal d'Entrée*. A provisional system was thus devised, abbreviated as 'TR' (from the English, Temporary Register) or 'RT' (from the French, *Registre Temporaire*), which indicated the day, month and year (of the new cataloguing), followed by a progressive number used to differentiate the various objects registered on the same day. Where the JE or CG number of an object was identified, the TR was automatically eliminated.

The provisional numbering is painted in a cross on the objects and is to be read from left to right and from top to bottom. For typographical reasons, a TR number is generally transcribed in publications by separating data with a full stop.

There are twelve volumes in the Temporary Register. The first object inventoried is dated 3 May, 1914.

In the 1960s the organization of the museum was completely revised, following which all the objects were subdivided into seven sections:

- I) Treasure of Tutankhamun, jewels, and royal mummies.
- II) Old Kingdom
- III) Middle Kingdom
- IV) New Kingdom and written material
- V) Late Period
- VI) Coins and papyri
- VII) Scarabs, sarcophagi and ostraca

Each section has an autonomous system of registration involving the attribution of a progressive number to each object, according to its position within the museum halls. Nowadays, rather than being recorded in the Temporary Register, an object lacking any form of numbering will on occasion be assigned a number in the Special Register (abbreviated as 'SR') of the section concerned.

The SR numbers are painted in white on black cards placed alongside the objects. When these numbers are cited in a publication the object's progressive number is always preceded by that of the section in Roman numerals.

Given that the statues found in the Karnak Cachette and the objects forming part of the funerary assemblage of Tutankhamun have received only partial publication in the volumes of the Catalogue Général, they are still cited in some publications through the numbers attributed to them at the moment of their discovery. The white tags with black lettering placed by Carter when he photographed the objects in situ can still be seen in the museum display cases. The number attributed by Legrain, preceded by the initial 'K' is traced on many of the sculptural works found in the Karnak Cachette.

THE CATALOGUE GÉNÉRAL

At the time of the construction of the new museum building it was decided to publish details of the entire collection of Egyptian Antiquities in Cairo in the form of formal catalogues. Each batch of objects was attributed a sequence of numbers and was assigned to an expert, generally a member of the Museum or the Antiquities Service staff.

The first volumes of the Catalogue Général (abbreviated as 'CG') were published shortly after the opening of the new museum premises. The regularity of their publication decreased with the outbreak of the First World War, further diminished following the Second World War, and came to a virtual standstill in the late 1950s. Of this publishing venture, unique in the extent and accuracy of the documentation, around eighty of the hundred or so volumes originally planned have been published. Some of them are still stored in manuscript form, just as they were left by the experts who were working on them, while others have never been completed.

Only in recent years have attempts been made to revive the systematic publication of the vast collections of the Egyptian Museum.

CG 1–1294

L. Borchardt, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 1–1294: Statuen und Statuetten von Königen und Privatleuten im Museum von Kairo. I–V, Berlin 1911–1936.

CG 1295–1808

L. Borchardt, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 1295–1808: Denkmäler des Alten Reiches (ausser den Statuen) im Museum von Kairo. I–II, Berlin 1937–1964.

CG 1308–1315, 17001–17036

Ch. Kuentz, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 1308–1315 & 17001–17036: Obélisques, Cairo 1932.

CG 2001–2152

F.W. von Bissing, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 2001–2152: Tongefässer. Bis zum Beginn des alten Reiches, Wien 1913.

CG 3426–3587

F.W. von Bissing, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 3426–3587: Metallgefässer, Wien 1901.

CG 3618–4000, 18001–18037, 18600, 18603

F.W. von Bissing, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 3618–4000, 18001–18037, 18600, 18603: Fayencegefässer, Wien 1902.

CG 4798–4976, 5034–5200

G.A. Reisner, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 4798–4976, 5034–5200: Models of Ships and Boats, Cairo 1913.

CG 5218–6000, 12001–13595

G.A. Reisner, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 5218–6000, 12001–13595: Amulets I–II, Cairo 1907–1958.

CG 6001–6029

E. Chassiat, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 6001–6029: La seconde trouvaille de Deir el-Babri (sarcophages), Leipzig 1909.

CG 7001–7394, 8742–9200

J. Strzygowski, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 7001–7394, 8742–9200: Koptische Kunst, Wien 1904.

CG 8001–8741

W.E. Crum, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 8001–8741: Coptic Monuments, Cairo 1902.

CG 28001–28126

P. Lacau, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 28001–28126: Greek Sculpture, Cairo 1904.

CG 29301–29323

G. Maspéro, H. Gauthier (in collaboration with d'Abbas Bayoumi), Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 29301–29323: Sarcophages des époques persanes et ptolémaïque. Tomes I–II, Cairo 1916.

CG 4901–9449

E. Chassiat, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 4901–9449: Textes et dessins magiques, Cairo 1903.

Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 9401–9449: Textes et dessins magiques, Cairo 1903.

CG 9501–9711

U. Wilcken (published by C. Gallazzi), Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 9501–9711: Griechische Ostraka, Cairo 1983.

CG 10001–10869

B.P. Grenfell and A.S. Hunt, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 10001–10869: Greek Papyri, Oxford 1903.

CG 11001–12000, 14001–14754

M. Quibell, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 11001–12000, 14001–14754: Archaic Objects, Cairo 1905.

CG 12001–13595 = CG 5218–6000

CG 17001–17036 = CG 1308–1315

CG 18001–18037, 18600, 18603 = CG 3618–4000

CG 18065–18793

F.W. von Bissing, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 18065–18793: Steingefässer, Wien 1904–1907.

CG 18600, 18603 = CG 3618–4000

CG 20001–20780

H.O. Lange and H. Schäfer, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 20001–20780: Sculptors' Studies and Unfinished Works, Cairo 1906.

CG 22001–22208

Ahmed-bey Kamal, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 22001–22208: Stèles du Nouvel Empire. I–II, Cairo 1909–1926.

CG 34001–34068

P. Lacau, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 34001–34068: Stèles du Nouvel Empire. I–II, Cairo 1925–1931.

CG 34087–34189

P. Lacau, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 34087–34189: Stèles de la XVIII^e Dynastie, Cairo 1909–1910.

CG 33001–33036

C.C. Edgar, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 33001–33036: Papyrus hiératiques, Cairo 1927.

CG 33101–33285

C.C. Edgar, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 33101–33285: Graeco-Egyptian Coffins, Masks and Portraits, Cairo 1905.

CG 33301–33506

C.C. Edgar, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 33301–33506: Sculptors' Studies and Unfinished Works, Cairo 1906.

CG 34001–34068

P. Lacau, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 34001–34068: Papyrus grecs d'époque byzantine, Cairo 1906.

CG 36001–37521

P.E. Newberry, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 360

Mummies in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, 1997, in which not only all the royal mummies found within the Museum are described but also all those from the Cachette of Deir el-Bahri and the excavations conducted in the Valley of the Kings that for one reason or another are preserved elsewhere.

There are various volumes devoted to the Museum in which photography plays a leading role. The most important are: *Le Musée du Caire. Photographies inédites d'André Vigneau*, Paris, 1949, and *E. Drioton, Encyclopédie photographique de l'art: le Musée du Caire*, Paris, 1949. By this last author there is also a small guide, which, however, is not an official publication, *E. Drioton, Le Musée Égyptien*, Cairo, 1939.

The Museum is reduced to its essentials in the catalogue-guide by M. Saleh, *Cairo. The Egyptian Museum and Pharaonic Sites* (Cairo, 1997). In just a few pages all the major masterpieces are described with incomparable majesty by the man who perhaps knows them best, having been the director of the Museum for over twenty years.

EXHIBITIONS HELD AT THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

From the 1970s the Museum has also been used as a venue for temporary exhibitions, which have served above all to celebrate the excavations of foreign nations or the work of eminent Egyptologists. Two exhibitions held in 1976 and 1988 (of which there is no catalogue available) were organized to display to the public newly acquired or less well-known exhibits from the museum's collection.

The Egyptian Museum in Cairo in Ten Years: 1965–1975. An Exhibition held in the Museum in 1976, Cairo 1976.
Exhibition of the 25th Anniversary of Czech Excavations (1959–1984), Cairo 1985.
Centenaire de l'Institut Française d'Archéologie Orientale. Musée du Caire, 8

janvier–8 février 1981, Cairo 1981.
Cinquante années à Saqqarah de J.-P. Lauer. Musée du Caire, 13 avril 1980–15 mars 1981, Cairo 1982.
Archaic Egypt, Cairo 1982.
The Egypt Exploration Society Centenary Exhibition (1882–1982), Cairo 1982.
L'egittologo Luigi Vassalli-bey 1812–1887, 9 maggio–9 luglio 1994, Cairo 1994.
Il contributo italiano alla costruzione del Museo Egizio del Cairo, Cairo 1995.

EXHIBITION ON EUROPEAN EXCAVATIONS IN EGYPT

Isis. The Egyptian Goddess Who Conquered Rome, 16 November–16 December 1998, Cairo 1998.

FOREIGN EXHIBITIONS OF OBJECTS FROM THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

From the early 1960s to the second half of the 1980s a series of major exhibitions took many of the most important of the Museum's exhibits around the world. As well as being opportunities to present the wonders of the pharaonic civilization to those unable to travel to Egypt, they also served to bring to the attention of the specialist public a number of objects published for the first time in the catalogues on the exhibitions.

The most important of these exhibitions, which also served to relaunch Egypt as an attractive tourist destination, was undoubtedly that devoted to Tutankhamun. Beginning in 1961, when the most beautiful objects from his tomb were shipped to the United States (remaining there until 1963), the exhibition moved to Japan (1965–1966), Paris (1967), London (1972), and the Soviet Union (1974). It then returned to the United States, from where it moved to Canada (1976–1979) before completing its trip around the world in Germany (1980–1981).

On the occasion of the completion of the restoration of the mummy of Ramesses II, France and Egypt celebrated by organizing an exhibition of a grandeur appropriate to the

pharaoh. The exhibition devoted to Ramesses II was inaugurated in France in 1976 and restaged some years later in Montreal, from where it passed to cities in the United States (1985–1988).

An exhibition dedicated to the figures of Akhenaten and Nefertiti was staged in Belgium (1975) and Germany (1976), in which, alongside the exhibits from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo were the objects discovered by Borchardt's mission at Tel el-Amarna, currently held in the Egyptian Museum of Berlin.

Other exhibitions worthy of note and featuring artifacts from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo include those organized in Germany and devoted to the divine role of Egyptian royalty (*Götter Pharaonen*, 1978–1979).

and to the role of women. The latter, inaugurated on the occasion of the Fifth International Congress of Egyptology at Munich (1985), was subsequently taken to other European cities.

In Italy, an exhibition devoted exclusively to objects from the Museum was organized in Venice (*Tesori dei faraoni*, 1985).

In recent years, Austria has dedicated an exhibition to the successful excavations conducted by the University of Vienna at Tel al-Dabha, with objects from the Museum's collection (1993), while Korea has recently displayed a series of monuments that give a general idea of the Egyptian civilization to a people geographically and culturally remote from the Nile Valley (1997).



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**NECKLACE WITH PECTORAL
 DEDICATED TO SENUSRET II,
 FROM DAHSHUR
 (DETAIL)**
 JE 30857

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